

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-15 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 FEA-01 /120 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3872

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UNCLAS SOFIA 2458

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BU

SUBJECT: GEOLOGIC SURVEYING IN BLACK SEA

REF: SOFIA 2390

1. BULGARIAN BLACK SEA GEOLOGIC SURVEY EFFORTS HAVE RECEIVED MEDIA COVERAGE IN PAST FEW WEEKS. UP-BEAT HUMAN INTEREST ARTICLE IN NOV 10 ISSUE OF ZEMEDEL'SKO ZNAME DESCRIBES JOINT SOVIET-BULGARIAN SURVEY "EXPEDITION" IN BLACK SEA DURING OCT. DATA COORDINATION CENTER UNDER PROF. A.A. AKSYONOV, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE OF OCEANOLOGY IN USSR, HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO EXAMINE RESULTS. NATURAL GAS DEPOSITS REPORTEDLY WERE LOCATED, BUT NO INDICATION OF SIZE OF ECONOMIC POTENTIAL WAS GIVEN.

2. SECOND ARTICLE, IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE WEEKLY SOFIA NEWS OF NOV 30 MENTIONS FIRST MINERAL EXPLORATION EFFORTS IN 1970 IN VICINITY OF BAY OF BURGAS. SURVEYING, INCLUDING DRILLING AND MAGNETIC STUDIES, WAS DONE FROM 300-TON TOWED BARGE EQUIPPED WITH OVERBOARD UNCLASSIFIED

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PLATFORM AND DRILLING FACILITIES. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, THE SEA SHELF (WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR 10 PERCENT OF BULGARIA'S TERRITORY) IS TO BE "DEEPLY DRILLED" FOR OIL AND NATURAL GAS. NORTHERN PART OF BLACK SEA HAS SHOWN FAVORABLE PROSPECTS AT DEPTHS OF 80 TO 100 METERS.

3. IN ADDITION TO POSSIBLE OIL AND GAS FINDS, THE
ARTICLE MENTIONS "BLACK SLIME" DEPOSITS WHICH COVER
THE SHELF AT DEPTHS OF 30 TO 70 METERS AS BEING OF
POTENTIAL COMMERCIAL VALUE AND LIME DEPOSITS WHICH
MAY BE EXPLOITABLE BY CEMENT INDUSTRY.
GARTHOFF

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